Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

12. (original): An apparatus for recording and playing back a video stream, and referred to as a video storage device, comprising:

a video interface configured to receive or transmit a video stream;

a data storage unit configured to retain video content;

a user interface configured to receive record and playback commands from a user;

a computer processor configured to control recording and playback of video content from said data storage unit in response to said user commands; and

means for removing video content displayed on a play list, and for deferring release of associated storage space on said video storage device until said storage space is needed for recording additional content.

13. (original): An apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said means for removing video content comprises:

programming executable by said computer processor for carrying out the operations of

receiving a directive to delete content from within said play list;

moving pointers to said content from said play list to a replacement queue,

within which units of content storage remain associated with their respective

element of content until reused for recording additional content.

14. (original): An apparatus as recited in claim 13, wherein said directive to delete content comprises a user command received through said user interface or a directive from programming for performing automated content deletion.

15. (original): An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said programming for performing automated content deletion is executed in response to status information about the video content.

16. (original): An apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said programming for performing automated content deletion is executed in response to user preference settings or information.

17. (original): An apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein said user preference information is received from a user preference engine.

18. (original): An apparatus as recited in claim 12, further comprising means for restoring video content removed from said play list but whose video storage space has not been fully reallocated to other content, said restored video content being returned to said play list in response to an undeletion command from said user.

19. (original): An apparatus as recited in claim 18, wherein said means for restoring video content comprises:

programming executable by said computer processor for carrying out the operations of

receiving a user command to undelete content previously deleted from said play list, and

moving pointers to remaining portions of content from said replacement queue back into said play list.

Claims 20-37 (canceled)

38. (new): An apparatus for recording and playing back a video stream, and referred to as a video storage device, comprising:

a video interface configured to receive or transmit a video stream;

a data storage unit configured to retain video content;

a user interface configured to receive record and playback commands from a user;

a computer processor configured to control recording and playback of video content from said data storage unit in response to said user commands; and

programming executable by said computer processor for carrying out the operations of

receiving a directive to delete content from within said play list;

moving pointers to said content from said play list to a replacement queue, within which units of content storage remain associated with their respective element of content until reused for recording additional content.

39. (new): An apparatus as recited in claim 38, wherein said directive to delete content comprises a user command received through said user interface or a directive from programming for performing automated content deletion.

40. (new): An apparatus as recited in claim 39, wherein said programming for performing automated content deletion is executed in response to status information about the video content.

41. (new): An apparatus as recited in claim 39, wherein said programming for performing automated content deletion is executed in response to user preference

settings or information.

42. (new): An apparatus as recited in claim 41, wherein said user preference information is received from a user preference engine.

43. (new): An apparatus as recited in claim 38, further comprising means for restoring video content removed from said play list but whose video storage space has not been fully reallocated to other content, said restored video content being returned to said play list in response to an undeletion command from said user.

44. (new): An apparatus as recited in claim 43, wherein said means for restoring video content comprises:
        programming executable by said computer processor for carrying out the operations of
                receiving a user command to undelete content previously deleted from
        said play list, and
        moving pointers to remaining portions of content from said replacement queue back into said play list.

45. (new): An apparatus for recording and playing back a video stream, and referred to as a video storage device, comprising:
        a video interface configured to receive or transmit a video stream;
        a data storage unit configured to retain video content;
        a user interface configured to receive record and playback commands from a user;
        a computer processor configured to control recording and playback of video content from said data storage unit in response to said user commands; and
        programming executable by said computer processor for carrying out the

operations of

receiving a directive to delete content from within said play list;

moving pointers to said content from said play list to a replacement queue, within which units of content storage remain associated with their respective element of content until reused for recording additional content;

receiving a user command to undelete content previously deleted from said play list; and

moving pointers to remaining portions of content from said replacement queue back into said play list.